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ment has been added to Shayer's
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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ANOTHER "wonder doctor" has been discovered in Germany. He is a shepherd named Ast, living in the small village of Radbruch. In the last few weeks over 1,000 persons have visited him from all parts of Germany. The people stand in crowds about the man's hut, waiting for his advice. His success is said to be remarkable.

THE Czar of Russia promises to be one of the most popular monarchs in Europe. He has completely won the St. Petersburg populace by his lack of fear in going about the streets of the capital unattended—a great contrast to the manner of his father. The police, however, do not like his ways, and they are in constant fear that he will be killed.

STOCK CITY, Iowa, is to try a novel experiment in selling liquor. The town council has granted a company of leading citizens the exclusive right to open saloons; which, however, are to be governed by the severe restrictions in use in Gothenburg. After deducting a fixed per cent. of interest on the investment, the company is to turn all the proceeds over to the Young Men's Christian Association.

THE example set by the Russian Government in placing a contract for 12,000 tons of armor for war vessels with an American firm has been followed by the governing powers of Japan. An order for 25,000 yards of cotton duck has recently been placed with a New York house by the representatives of the Mikado. The cloth is to be used in the manufacture of army tents.

THROUGH the efforts of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, who has had charge of the Government schools in Alaska for many years, a herd of over 700 reindeer has been transported from Siberia across the Behring Straits into Alaska, and they are reported to be doing very well. More than 300 fawns were born last year. There used to be large herds of wild reindeer on the moss-covered tundras of Alaska, but they were all exterminated years ago, and the walrus, whale and seal, which have since supplied the natives with food, clothing and fuel, are getting very scarce.

THE Paris Rappal explains that very many Italian letters go to the Washington dead letter office through sheer meanness. The writer in Italy does not prepay the postage, and the Italian recipient in this country refuses to pay the double postage due, because he or she is quite satisfied to learn, by reading the stamp of the office from which the missive comes, and the address, or by simply recognizing the handwriting of the address that the writer is certainly still alive, and probably well. By the way, the simple trick is not new. It used to be employed in England many years ago before the advent of penny postage.

TAXES in France are the heaviest in Europe in proportion to the population, amounting to \$17.50 a man. Though the general taxes for the German Empire are only \$6.25 a head, they must be added to the taxes of the individual States; the average Prussian German, for instance, pays \$15.50. Next comes Austria with \$12.37 and Hungary with \$12.12. England's rate is \$11.50, so is Holland's; that of Belgium is \$11, of Italy \$10.50, of Greece \$10, of Spain, Denmark, and Roumania \$9, of Sweden \$5.50, and of Serbia \$5.25. In Switzerland the general Government receives \$9 a head, but the individual canton tax as well. In Russia the rate is the lowest, \$1.25, as a large proportion of the revenue comes from the State's domain.

NO WONDER Japan wins her battles. There is probably no country in the world, says Professor Ladd, in Scribner, where so large a proportion of the clever young men have their ambitions fired with desire to do something worthy for their liege lord, or their country, or the particular ideal cause which their imagination has espoused. In politics, scholarship, sociology, and religion, an uncommon proportion of striplings are ready to offer themselves as informers and reformers, as leaders and as prophets. Where this ferment of aspiration, accompanied by the sentimental view of what one man—and he young, unknown, and no other than "I myself"—can accomplish, is also joined to even a fair amount of judgment and patient willingness to undergo training and to submit to rebuffs, it produces some truly splendid results.

OVER against the opinions of the visiting English labor leaders on the condition of the poor in New York City must be placed some statistics regarding London municipal government, furnished by Home Secretary Asquith the other day. He described the overcrowding in London as terrible. There are about 400,000 persons living in homes of one room, and 800,000 "living two or more in a single room." With regard to the inspection of workshops, Mr. Asquith says that "only five out of forty-three District Boards have appointed inspectors specially for the purpose." In Lambeth, with a population of 275,000, there is not a single public bath. In St. Pancras, population 281,000, there is not a single public library. In Bethnal Green and Mile End there is neither a public bath nor a public library. When London critics talk about New York they find it convenient to forget facts like these.

"You often hear passengers ask," says a travelling man, "I wonder how fast we are going?" and it is the easiest thing in the world to ascertain with the aid of a watch. The rails on nearly all railroads are thirty feet in length, and you can easily tell when each rail joint is passed over by the peculiar sound which the truck-wheels make. Now, if you will count the number of rail lengths the car passes over in twenty seconds, you have approximately the number of miles per hour the train is going. Another but a more complicated method of arriving at the same result is to note the number of feet a car goes in a minute, and divide the sum by 88. This is done by securing the number of rails passed over in one minute, and multiplying that by 80, the number of feet in a rail. A person of an inquiring turn of mind will find great pleasure in this simple employment, and it is one of which he will never grow tired."